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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's wrestlers will compete in the NCAA Western Regional Saturday and Sunday (March 2-3) at Des Moines, IA.

EIU, 5-5 in dual meets, will take a complete ten man squad. "I expect to have at least four wrestlers seeded in the top five of their weight class," says coach Ralph McCausland.

Those four are Chris McFarland (East Chicago Heights-Bloom) at 158, Mark Ruettiger (Joliet-Providence) at 134, Ozzie Porter (Chicago-Dunbar) at 167 and Paul Rodriguez (Tinley Park-Lincoln CC) at 118.

"I think McFarland will be in the top two and Ruettiger in the top three. Going into the regional you must be mentally prepared to compete or you will be watching from the sidelines very quickly."

The top three in each weight class and five wild card selections will advance to the NCAA national finals March 13-15 at Oklahoma City.

Besides the four expected to be seeded, other EIU wrestlers are Pat Flynn (Round Lake) at 126, Paul Cysewski (Glenview-Glenbrook South) at 142, Chris Simcox (Joliet-Catholic) at 150, Dan Noll (Galesburg) at 177, Bruce Hanson (Carpentersville-Crown) at 190 and Dan Ivanisevic (Lyons-Morton West) at heavyweight.

McFarland has the team's best won-lost record at 18-8 while Ruettiger is 17-7 and Porter is 15-6.